countries, for the remaining part of the year 1995. There have been representations for and against enhancement of the ceiling for cotton yarn exports. After careful consideration of all relevant aspects, ceiling for exports of cotton yarn of 1-40s to non-quota countries has been raised by 5 million kgs. in November, 1995. There is no ceiling on the export of yarn of 41 counts and above.

Excise duty payable on tariff value basis

2222. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of excise duty payable on tariff value basis exceeds the amount of excise duty that was payable at the rate fixed in the Finance Bill, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this increase is influenced by a recent BICP study on the soft drink industry;

(d) if so, the names of each bottler from whom information was sought by BICP; the details of information sought and the information provided; and

(e) the annual rate of inflation, the effective rates of excise duty and the average increase in the wholesale price of aerated water during each of the years 1991—95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Tariff values have been fixed with effect from 1.11.1995 for certain categories of aerated waters for determining the excise duty payable thereon. For these categories of aerated waters, prior to 1.11.1995, excise duty was payable with reference to value determined under Section 4 of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944. A change in the basis of assessment makes it difficult to indicate generally whether or not the amount of excise duty payable on the basis of tariff value exceeds the amount of duty payable on the basis of value under Section 4 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The annual rate of inflation is indicated in the Annual Economic Survey presented in the Parliament for the respective years. The effective rates of excise duty on aerated water during the period 1991—95 is as given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 175, Annexure No. 51] The details regarding the wholesale price charged by individual bottlers are not maintained centrally.

Setting up of Special Banks/Institutions

2223. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chambers of Commerce and Indusrty has mooted a proposal to RBI for setting up of special banks/institutions for financing risk/venture capital and seed money to SSIs;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on such proposals;

(c) whether Government propose to assist SSIs by various methods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that they have not received any such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A seven point Action Plan was announced by Government in March, 1995 under which particular attention has been paid to 85 districts having a cocentration of SSI Units. Public sector banks have been asked to set up 100 additional dedicated branches in these districts before the end of 1995-96. Fifty

one such branches have been operationalised by the end of October, 1995.

Induction of Vayudoot employees in Air India

2224. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government regarding inductions of Vayudoot employees in officer grade and other grades in Air India;

(b) the number of officers/staff of Vayudoot inducted in Air India;

(c) the promotion policy of Air India for promoting their staff of commercial department in the officer grade; and

(d) the number of years of service an Air India employees has to complete before he is allowed to compete with the outsiders to join in the officers' grade?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Absorption of Vayudoot employees in Air India has been done as per their grade/level in the Vayudoot Ltd. Out of 310 personnel of Vayudoot absorbed in Air India, seven are in officers cadre and 303 are in workman category.

(c) In the Commercial Department of Air India, 60% standard force vacancies in officers cadre are filled by Traffic Supervisor/Sr. Office Assistant/Personal Assistant on the basis of satisfactory service record. For filling supernumerary posts on promotion, 20% of the strength of employees in the categories of Senior Office Assistant/Traffic Supervisor/ Personal Assistants are selected as per seniority on all India basis and satisfactory service.

(d) No fixed length of service has been specified for this purpose except in the case of Assistant Station Superintendent in Commercial Department, where Traffic Assistant with ten years service are allowed to compete with outsiders.

Productivity Linked Agreement

2225. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines' Management had signed some productivity Linked Agreement with the Indian Aircraft Technicians Association in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether such an agreement envisages additional payment of wages to technicians;

(d) if so, the details thereof with effective date of such payment; and

(e) whether such an increase in wages would increase the operational efficiency of Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Memorandum of Understanding signed on 16.11.1995 provides for increase in emoluments linked to the productivity which would be determined by the number of aircraft produced per day and the technical regularity of the services. The payment is effective from 1.1. 1995.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Investigations against Officers of LIC, Kanpur Division

2226. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC, North Central Zone, Kanpur Division has not completed investigations against its own officers who were responsible for taking out various false insurance policies;

(b) whether certain agents were taken